

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADANA 00016 251324Z

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL ADANA

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 1189

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E. O. 11652: NA; TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: ERBAKAN IN CUKUROVA

1. NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY LEADER AND DEPUTY PRIMIN NECMETTIN

ERBAKAN SPENT THREE FULL DAYS IN THE REGION JANUARY 21 - 23,

LAYING CORNERSTONES, OPENING FACTORIES, HOLDING MEETINGS AND

MAKING PRE-ELECTION SPEECHES. NSP MINISTERS FOR AGRICULTURE,

INDUSTRY AND JUSTICE WERE PART OF ERBAKAN'S ENTOURAGE.

2. ERBAKAN HELD OPEN POLITICAL MEETINGS IN ISKENDERUN AND ADANA

WHICH DREW SMALLISH THOUGH RESPECTABLE CROWDS NUMBERING IN THE

LOW THOUSANDS WHICH INCLUDED MANY WHO WERE CURIOUS AS WELL AS

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HIS SUPPORTERS. ERBAKAN IS AN EXTREMELY FLUENT SPEAKER BUT

PERIODIC ORATORICAL FLIGHTS INTO CLOUDS OF STATISTICS ABOUT HIS

BELOVED PROJECTS QUITE CLEARLY TURNED OFF HIS AUDIENCE, WHO SHOWED

LITTLE APPRECIATION OF THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF THE "DEVELOPMENT

DRIVE." ON THE OTHER HAND, HOWEVER, HE QUICKLY GOT THEM BACK

WITH APPEALS TO OLD-TIME RELIGION; FOR EXAMPLE, HIS SUPPORTERS

GENEROUSLY APPLAUDED STATEMENTS THAT IN THE CYPRUS OPERATION AS

AT MALAZGIRT (1071) "FAITH" HAD PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE SUCCESS

OF TURKISH ARMS.

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3. NSP PLACARDS AND CHEERLEADERS STRESSED THE THEME THAT "THE

MAN OF THE YEAR--FIGHTER(MUCAHIT)ERBAKAN" WOULD LEAD THE WAY

TO A "GREAT TURKEY." ERBAKAN SKILLFULLY DRUMMED NATIONALISM AND

THE QUEST FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE INTO A SINGLE (SIMPLISTIC) REFRAIN:

ESCHEWING THE WAY OF THE "COMMUNIST" EAST AND THE "CAPITALISH,

COLONIALIST" WEST, TURKEY WILL BECOME THE GREATEST STATE OF

EUROPE BY THE END OF THE CENTURY. WAR WILL BE WAGED AGAINST "HIGH

INTEREST RATES" (A REITERATED THEM) SO THAT INSTEAD OF "THREE MEN IN ISTANBUL", 42 MILLION TURKS WILL BE RICH. HE ATTACKED BOTH THE JUSTICE AND THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY AS INCAPABLE OF LEADING TURKEY AND PREDICTED 150 DEPUTIES FOR THE NSP WOULD BE CHOSEN

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IN THE NEXT ELECTION.

4. TO KEYNOTE THE NSP'S ROLE IN PUSHING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ERBAKAN LAID CORNERSTONES FOR A CIRCA \$800 MILLION EXPANSION OF THE ISKENDERUN STEEL PLANT (SOVIET CREDITS) AND \$370 MILLION FERTILIZER COMPLEX IN MERSIN. THE LATTER ACT MAY HAVE BEEN A NET MINUS POLITICALLY, SINCE HE BROKE GROUND AT A SITE NEAR THE CENTER OF TOWN CONSIDERED BY MANY UNACCEPTABLE FOR A FERTILIZER PLANT. MERSIN'S POPULAR RPP MAYOR, KAYA MUTLU, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE THE SAME DAY STRESSING THE THE NEW PLANT HAD NOT GOTTEN AND WOULD NOT GET A BUILDING PERMIT. SUPPORTING THE MAYOR, MERSIN'S DAILY PAPER, JANUARY 24, LED OFF WITH A BANNER HEADLINE: "MERSIN FOR THE MERSINIANS."

5. COMMENT: ERBAKAN, WHO CONTINUED TO TAKE POT SHOTS AT THE MEDIA IN HIS PUBLIC REMARKS, SEEMED TO FARE EXTREMELY WELL IN REGARD TO TV COVERAGE OF HIS TOUR. THUS THE MAYOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE AND THE QUESTIONS SURROUNDING THE FERTILIZER PLANT WERE NOT--AS FAR AS WE KNOW--COVERED BY TRT.

VON DEN STEINEN

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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